

Summer Residents Advisory Committee 2013 Final Report

During the summer of 2013, the Summer Residents Advisory Committee held ten regular business meetings to receive information on the Town's performance in rendering services to its citizens and to identify issues of likely concern to summer residents in 2013. The committee met with Len Sussman, Board Selectman and liaison to the Committee, Tim Roper, Chairperson of Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Jill Goldsmith, Alix Heilala, Director of Finance, Florence Seldin, Previous Board of Selectman Chairperson

Several issues dominated the Committee's work this year. The first issue was the 2014 budget planning process and a two year level funded budget forecast, (the 2013 Summer Town Meeting video can be viewed on the town's website under Summer Residents 2013 Town Meeting – Chatham Financial Scorecard).

The second issue was the construction of a new Chatham fire station. The committee supported the decision to construct a new fire station located on Depot Road.

The third issue was the significant problem of parking at the Fish Pier during the summer season. We hope the Town and the Chatham Bars Inn can reach a mutually successful conclusion to a longstanding problem by summer 2014.

The fourth issue was the improvement of Route 28 between George Ryder Road and Barn Hill Road. There are safety issues with 3 lanes in this section of the Route 28 both for pedestrians and automobile. In addition, this area is unattractive. Our committee supports the roundabout plan in combination with a bike and pedestrian path. In addition, the appropriate landscaping and street lighting will enhance the aesthetics of the area.

The fifth issue developed during the later part of our SRAC summer meeting schedule. This issue involved the trash disposal process beginning January 1, 2015. The Summer Residents Advisory Committee did not support the "pay as you throw" concept. We did, however, encourage the Town to continue negotiations with Covanta and ABC Disposal. We had serious concerns that the Cape Cod Commission only negotiated with Covanta until pressure was applied to include ABC Disposal in the negotiating process. With two qualified vendors of trash and recycling disposal now competing for the Town of Chatham business, the future costs should be stabilized beginning on January 1, 2015.

The sixth issue to be considered in 2014 is the large number of administrative offices located in different sections of the Town. The consolidation of these operations would not only reduce operational costs, but enhance communications among Town Departmental officials. We strongly recommend that the Town initiate an assessment process for the possibility of consolidating the office space of all Departments.

And finally, a key issue for the Town of Chatham to address is the future protection plans for Chatham's shoreline and the future maintenance dredging plan. Chatham's waters need to be navigable for the commercial fishermen and recreational boaters. The state regulations do not deal appropriately with the serious rising waters of Chatham and the associated flooding problems that occur. Chatham does not need a New Jersey "Sandy" situation, so the problem needs to be addressed with the highest priority.

The committee hosted the 67th Annual Summer Town Meeting on August 7, 2013. The agenda of the evening included:

Welcome remarks - Board of Selectman, Chairperson, Tim Roper,
State of the Town - Town Manager, Jill Goldsmith,
Trash – How to Dispose of it in 2015, Joel Rottner,
Navigating Chatham Waters - Michael Ryder,
The Dredging Situation - Ted Keon,
West Chatham Corridor (Rt 28) Update - Peter Tarrant.
Chatham Financial Scorecard 2013 - Hugh Moulton

The Committee would like to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Committee's Liaison, Selectman Len Sussman, the Town Manager, Jill Goldsmith, and the Town Department Heads for their help in making 2013 a very productive year for the Summer Residents Advisory Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Hal Kraus, Chairman
Joel Rottner, Vice Chairman
Colette B. Traylor, Ph.D., Secretary
Michael S. Waters, Treasurer
Bob Champlin
Kay Flynn
Jill Nickerson MacDonald
Hugh Moulton
Phil Richardson
Peter Tarrant
Katherine Malfa, Associate Member
Jamie Meehan, Associate Member